

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

On pages 74-75, please replace the Abstract with the following Abstract:

--The present invention relates to a method of screening a compound or its salt which promotes or inhibits a function of an orphan receptor protein, which comprises comparing measured cell stimulating activities of test compound (a) when the test compound is brought in contact with cells expressing an orphan receptor or its cell membrane fractions, and with cells not expressing an orphan receptor or its cell membrane fractions, to identify compounds having an agonist activity; extracting a common structure among the compounds having agonist activity; selecting ligand candidate compounds which have the common structure; comparing measured cell stimulating activities of the ligand candidate compounds with that of test compound (b) when they are brought in contact with cells expressing the orphan receptor protein or its cell membrane fractions; and measuring the amount of specific binding between said orphan receptor protein and test compound (b).--